



**March 1, 2023**

Joint Committee on Education  
Attn: Rosalie Filippone, Committee Clerk  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: H.B. 6760 - An Act Concerning Civics Education and Media Literacy (Support).**

Dear Co-Chair Currey, Co-Chair McCrory, and Members of the Joint Committee on Education:

On behalf of the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), I write to support H.B. 6760, An Act Concerning Civics Education and Media Literacy.

CCIA is a 50-year-old not-for-profit international tech trade association that advocates for policy and market conditions that benefit innovation, the tech sector, and consumers<sup>1</sup>. We strongly believe children deserve an enhanced level of security and privacy online. Currently, there are a number of efforts among our members to incorporate protective design features into their websites and platforms. CCIA's members have been leading the effort in raising the standard for teen safety and privacy across the tech industry by creating new features, settings, parental tools, and protections that are age-appropriate and tailored to the differing developmental needs of young people.

Given the complexity of tackling this critical issue, existing industry efforts to support child safety and privacy online could be bolstered by educational curricula focused on how to be a good citizen online. Offering such education to children would provide a more holistic approach to fostering children's online safety. That is why we recommend that the legislation be amended to also incorporate the subject of digital citizenship into the scope of the proposed Task Force's study and efforts. Taking steps to identify standards of appropriate, responsible, and healthy online behavior, including cyberbullying prevention and crafting a strategy as to how best public schools can provide instruction on this topic can go a long way to helping young people establish safer online habits<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For 50 years, CCIA has promoted open markets, open systems, and open networks. CCIA members employ more than 1.6 million workers, invest more than \$100 billion in research and development, and contribute trillions of dollars in productivity to the global economy. A list of CCIA members is available at <https://www.ccianet.org/members>.

<sup>2</sup> See New Jersey's [recently passed law](#) signed by Governor Phil Murphy (D) on January 4, 2023.



We applaud the legislature's effort to ensure students are receiving a well-rounded education, and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on this front to ensure that we are providing young people with the tools they need to appropriately and effectively navigate online spaces.

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We appreciate the Committee's consideration of these comments and stand ready to provide additional information as the Legislature considers proposals related to technology policy.

Sincerely,

Alex Spyropoulos

Regional Policy Manager, Northeast

Computer & Communications Industry Association